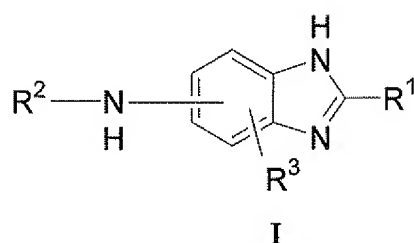


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. **(Presently Amended)** A compound of formula I:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or stereoisomer thereof, wherein:

a is 0 or 1;

b is 0 or 1;

R¹ is thiazolyl, optionally substituted with one or more R⁴ groups;

R² is -(C=O)NR⁵R⁶;

R³ and R⁴ are each independently selected from:

- 1) hydrogen,
- 2) halogen,
- 3) -(C=O)_aO_b(C₁₋₁₀)alkyl,
- 4) -(C=O)_aO_b(C₂₋₈)alkenyl,
- 5) -(C=O)_aO_b(C₂₋₈)alkynyl,
- 6) -(C=O)_aO_b(C₃₋₁₀)cycloalkyl,
- 7) -(C=O)_aO_b(C₃₋₈)heterocyclyl,
- 8) -(C=O)_aO_baryl,
- 9) -(C=O)_aNR⁵R⁶,

- 10) $-\text{O}_b(\text{C}=\text{O})\text{NR}^5\text{R}^6$,
- 11) $-\text{NR}^5(\text{C}=\text{O})_a\text{O}_b\text{R}^b$,
- 12) $-\text{NR}^5(\text{C}=\text{O})\text{NR}^5\text{R}^6$,
- 13) $-\text{NR}^5\text{S}(\text{O})_2\text{R}^b$,
- 14) $-(\text{C}=\text{O})\text{OH}$,
- 15) trifluoromethoxy,
- 16) trifluoroethoxy,
- 17) $-\text{O}_b(\text{C}_{1-10})\text{perfluoroalkyl}$,
- 18) $-\text{S}(\text{O})_2\text{O}_b(\text{C}_{1-10})\text{alkyl}$,
- 19) $-\text{S}(\text{O})_2\text{O}_b(\text{C}_{2-8})\text{alkenyl}$,
- 20) $-\text{S}(\text{O})_2\text{O}_b(\text{C}_{2-8})\text{alkynyl}$,
- 21) $-\text{S}(\text{O})_2\text{O}_b(\text{C}_{3-10})\text{cycloalkyl}$,
- 22) $-\text{S}(\text{O})_2\text{O}_b(\text{C}_{3-8})\text{heterocyclyl}$,
- 23) $-\text{S}(\text{O})_2\text{O}_b\text{aryl}$,
- 24) $-\text{NR}^5\text{S}(\text{O})_2\text{NR}^5\text{R}^6$,
- 25) $-\text{CN}$
- 26) $-\text{NO}_2$, and
- 27) OH ,

wherein said aryl, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, heterocyclyl, and cycloalkyl are each optionally substituted with one or more R^Z groups;

R^5 is selected from:

- 1) hydrogen,
- 2) $-(\text{C}=\text{O})_a\text{O}_b(\text{C}_{1-10})\text{alkyl}$,
- 3) $-(\text{C}=\text{O})_a\text{O}_b(\text{C}_{2-8})\text{alkenyl}$,
- 4) $-(\text{C}=\text{O})_a\text{O}_b(\text{C}_{2-8})\text{alkynyl}$,
- 5) $-(\text{C}=\text{O})_a\text{O}_b(\text{C}_{3-10})\text{cycloalkyl}$,
- 6) $-(\text{C}=\text{O})_a\text{O}_b(\text{C}_{3-8})\text{heterocyclyl}$,
- 7) $-(\text{C}=\text{O})_a\text{O}_b\text{aryl}$,
- 8) $-(\text{C}=\text{O})\text{N}(\text{R}^b)_2$,

- 9) trifluoromethoxy,
- 10) trifluoroethoxy,
- 11) -(C₁₋₁₀)perfluoroalkyl,
- 12) -S(O)₂N(R^b)₂, and
- 13) -S(O)₂O^b R^b,

wherein, said alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, heterocyclyl, alkenyl, and alkynyl are optionally substituted with one or more R^Z groups,

R⁶ is selected from:

- 1) -(C=O)_aO^b(C₁₋₁₀)alkyl,
- 2) -(C=O)_aO^b(C₂₋₈)alkenyl,
- 3) -(C=O)_aO^b(C₂₋₈)alkynyl,
- 4) -(C=O)_aO^b(C₃₋₁₀)cycloalkyl,
- 5) -(C=O)_aO^b(C₃₋₈)heterocyclyl,
- 6) -(C=O)_aO^baryl,
- 7) -(C=O) N(R^b)₂,
- 8) trifluoromethoxy,
- 9) trifluoroethoxy,
- 10) -(C₁₋₁₀)perfluoroalkyl,
- 11) -S(O)₂N(R^b)₂, and
- 12) -S(O)₂O^b R^b,

wherein, said aryl, heterocyclyl, alkenyl, and alkynyl are optionally substituted with one or more R^Z groups, and wherein said alkyl and cycloalkyl are substituted with one or more R^Z groups,

with the proviso that R^Z is other than hydrogen when R⁶ is alkyl or cycloalkyl, or
~~R⁵ and R⁶ can be taken together with the nitrogen to which they are attached to form a~~
~~monocyclic or bicyclic heterocycle with 5-7 members in each ring and optionally containing,~~
~~in addition to the nitrogen, one or two additional heteroatoms selected from N, O, and S,~~

~~wherein said monocyclic or bicyclic heterocycle is optionally substituted with one or more~~
~~R^Z groups;~~

R^Z is selected from:

- 1) hydrogen,
- 2) halogen,
- 3)-(C=O)_aO_b(C₂₋₈)alkenyl,
- 4)-(C=O)_aO_b(C₂₋₈)alkynyl,
- 5)-(C=O)_aO_b(C₃₋₁₀)cycloalkyl,
- 6)-(C=O)_aO_b(C₃₋₈)heterocyclyl,
- 7) -(C=O)_aO_baryl,
- 8) -(C=O)_aN(R^b)₂,
- 9) -O_b(C=O)N(R^b)₂,
- 10) -NR^b(C=O)_aO_bR^b,
- 11) -NR^b(C=O)N(R^b)₂,
- 12) -NR^bS(O)₂R^b,
- 13) -(C=O)OH,
- 14) trifluoromethoxy,
- 15)trifluoroethoxy,
- 16)-O_b(C₁₋₁₀)perfluoroalkyl,
- 17)-S(O)₂O_b(C₁₋₁₀)alkyl,
- 18)-S(O)₂O_b(C₂₋₈)alkenyl,
- 19) -S(O)₂O_b(C₂₋₈)alkynyl,
- 20) -S(O)₂O_b(C₃₋₁₀)cycloalkyl,
- 21) -S(O)₂O_b(C₃₋₈)heterocyclyl,
- 22) -S(O)₂O_baryl,
- 23) -S(O)₂N(R^b)₂
- 24) -NR^bS(O)₂N(R^b)₂
- 25) -CN,

- 26) -NO₂,
- 27) oxo, and
- 28) -OH,

wherein, said aryl, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, heterocyclyl, and cycloalkyl are each optionally substituted with one or more R^a groups;

R^a is selected from hydrogen, OH, (C₁₋₆)alkoxy, halogen,

CO₂H, CN, O(C=O)C₁₋₆ alkyl, NO₂, trifluoromethoxy, trifluoroethoxy,

-O_b(C₁₋₁₀)perfluoroalkyl, and NH₂; and

R^b is hydrogen, -(C=O)_aO_b(C₁₋₁₀)alkyl, -(C=O)_aO_b(C₂₋₈)alkenyl,

-(C=O)_aO_b(C₂₋₈)alkynyl, -(C=O)_aO_b(C₃₋₁₀)cycloalkyl,

-(C=O)_aO_b(C₃₋₈)heterocyclyl, -(C=O)_aO_baryl, and ~~(O)₂R^a~~;

-(C=O)_aO_b(C₁₋₁₀)alkyl, -S(O)₂N(R^a)₂, -S(O)₂O_bR^a, trifluoromethoxy, trifluoroethoxy, or -O_b(C₁₋₁₀)perfluoroalkyl,

and wherein said alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, and heterocyclyl are optionally substituted with up to three substituents selected from CO₂H, NH₂, OH, (C₁₋₆)alkoxy, halogen, CN, O(C=O)C₁₋₆alkyl, NO₂, trifluoromethoxy, trifluoroethoxy, -O_b(C₁₋₁₀)perfluoroalkyl and N(R^a)₂.

2. **(Cancelled)**

3. **(Cancelled)**

4. **(Cancelled)**

5. **(Previously Amended)** A compound according to Claim 1, wherein R¹ is selected from thiazol-4-yl and thiazol-5-yl, wherein R¹ is optionally substituted with one or more R⁴ groups.

6. **(Original)** A compound according to claim 5, wherein:
R³ and R⁴ are each independently selected from:

- 1) hydrogen,
- 2) halogen,
- 3) -(C=O)_aO_b(C₁₋₁₀)alkyl,
- 4) -(C=O)_aO_b(C₂₋₈)alkenyl,
- 5) -(C=O)_aO_b(C₂₋₈)alkynyl,
- 6) -(C=O)_aO_b(C₃₋₁₀)cycloalkyl,
- 7) -(C=O)_aO_b(C₃₋₈)heterocyclyl,
- 8) -(C=O)_aO_baryl,
- 9) -(C=O)_aNR⁵R⁶,
- 10) -NR⁵S(O)₂R^b,
- 11) trifluoroethoxy,
- 12) -O_b(C₁₋₁₀)perfluoroalkyl,
- 13) -S(O)₂O_b(C₁₋₁₀)alkyl,
- 14) -S(O)₂O_b(C₃₋₁₀)cycloalkyl,
- 15) -CN, and
- 16) OH,

wherein said aryl, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, heterocyclyl, and cycloalkyl are each optionally substituted with one or more R^Z groups.

7. **(Presently Amended)** A compound according to claim 6, wherein:

R⁵ is selected from:

- 1) hydrogen,

- 2) $-(C=O)_aO_b(C_{1-10})alkyl$,
- 3) $-(C=O)_aO_b(C_{3-10})cycloalkyl$,
- 4) $-(C=O)_aO_b(C_{3-8})heterocyclyl$,
- 5) $-(C=O)_aO_baryl$,
- 6) $-(C=O)N(R^b)_2$, and
- 7) $(C_{1-10})perfluoroalkyl$.

further wherein, said alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, heterocyclyl, alkenyl, and alkynyl are optionally substituted with one or more R^Z groups, or

R^6 is selected from:

- 1) $-(C=O)_aO_b(C_{1-10})alkyl$,
- 2) $-(C=O)_aO_b(C_{3-10})cycloalkyl$,
- 3) $-(C=O)_aO_b(C_{3-8})heterocyclyl$,
- 4) $-(C=O)_aO_baryl$,
- 5) $-(C=O)N(R^b)_2$, and
- 6) $(C_{1-10})perfluoroalkyl$.

further wherein said aryl, heterocyclyl, alkenyl, and alkynyl are optionally substituted with one or more R^Z groups, and wherein said alkyl and cycloalkyl are substituted with one or more R^Z groups (providing R^Z is not hydrogen when R^6 is alkyl or cycloalkyl), or

~~R^5 and R^6 can be taken together with the nitrogen to which they are attached to form a monocyclic or bicyclic heterocycle with 5-7 members in each ring and optionally containing, in addition to the nitrogen, one or two additional heteroatoms selected from N, O, and S, wherein said monocyclic or bicyclic heterocycle is optionally substituted with one or more R^Z groups.~~

8. **(Previously Amended)** A compound according to claim 7, wherein R^b is selected from:

hydrogen, $-(C=O)_aO_b(C_{1-6})alkyl$, $-(C=O)_aO_b(C_{3-6})cycloalkyl$, $-(C=O)_aO_b(C_{3-6})heterocyclyl$, $-(C=O)_aO_baryl$, and $(C_{1-3})perfluoroalkyl$, and wherein said alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, and heterocyclyl are optionally substituted with up to two substituents selected from NH_2 , OH , $(C_{1-6})alkoxy$, halogen, CO_2H , CN , $O(C=O)C_{1-6}alkyl$, NO_2 , trifluoromethoxy, trifluoroethoxy, $-O_b(C_{1-10})perfluoroalkyl$ and $N(R^a)_2$.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 1,

selected from:

N-isopropyl-N-phenyl-N'-[2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-1H-benzimidazol-5-yl]urea;

N-[(1R)-1-phenylpropyl]-N'-[2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-1H-benzimidazol-5-yl]urea;

N-(3,5-dichlorobenzyl)-N'-[2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-1H-benzimidazol-5-yl]urea;

N-benzyl-N'-[2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-1H-benzimidazol-5-yl]urea;

N-(2-phenylethyl)-N'-[2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-1H-benzimidazol-5-yl]urea;

N-(2-methylbenzyl)-N'-[2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-1H-benzimidazol-5-yl]urea;

N-(2-fluorobenzyl)-N'-[2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-1H-benzimidazol-5-yl]urea;

N-(2-chlorobenzyl)-N'-[2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-1H-benzimidazol-5-yl]urea;

N-[(1S)-1-phenylethyl]-N'-[2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-1H-benzimidazol-5-yl]urea;

N-(3-fluorobenzyl)-N'-[2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-1H-benzimidazol-5-yl]urea;

N-(4-methylbenzyl)-N'-[2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-1H-benzimidazol-5-yl]urea;

N-(4-fluorobenzyl)-N'-[2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-1H-benzimidazol-5-yl]urea;

N-(2,4-dichlorobenzyl)-N'-[2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-1H-benzimidazol-5-yl]urea;

N-(3,4-dichlorobenzyl)-N'-[2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-1H-

benzimidazol-5-yl]urea;
N-(4-methoxyphenyl)-N'-[2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-1H-benzimidazol-5-yl]urea;
N-(3-methylbenzyl)-N'-[2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]urea;
N-(2-phenylcyclopropyl)-N'-[2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-1H-
benzimidazol-6-yl]urea;
N-(4-bromobenzyl)-N'-[2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]urea;
N-(4-methoxybenzyl)-N'-[2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]urea;
6-([[(3-methylphenyl)amino]carbonyl]amino)-2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-1H-
benzimidazole;
6-([[(1R)-1-phenylethyl]amino]carbonyl]amino)-2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-3H-
benzimidazole;
6-([[(1-(1-naphthyl)ethyl]amino]carbonyl]amino)-2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-
3H-benzimidazole;
6-([[(3,5-difluorophenyl)amino]carbonyl]amino)-2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-3H-
benzimidazole;
N-methyl-N-phenyl-N'-[2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-1H-benzimidazol-5-yl]urea;
N-benzyl-N-methyl-N'-[2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]urea;
N-[2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]-3,4-dihydroisoquinoline-
2(1H)-carboxamide;
N-[2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]-3,4-dihydroquinoline-
1(2H)-carboxamide;
N-ethyl-N-phenyl-N'-[2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-1H-benzimidazol-5-yl]urea;
6-([[(methyl(2-methylphenyl)amino]carbonyl]amino)-2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-
3H-benzimidazole;
6-([[(methyl(3-methylphenyl)amino]carbonyl]amino)-2-
(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-3H-benzimidazole;
6-([[(methyl(4-methylphenyl)amino]carbonyl]amino)-2-
(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-3H-benzimidazole;
N-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-N-methyl-N'-[2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-1H-
benzimidazol-5-yl]urea;

6-([sec-butyl(phenyl)amino]carbonyl)amino)-2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-3H-benzimidazole;

6-([allyl(phenyl)amino]carbonyl)amino)-2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-3H-benzimidazole;

6-([(2-hydroxyethyl)(phenyl)amino]-carbonyl)amino)-2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-3H-benzimidazole;

6-([(4-hydroxyphenyl)(methyl)amino]-carbonyl)amino)-2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-3H-benzimidazole;

N-(2-chlorophenyl)-N-methyl-N'-[2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-1H-benzimidazol-5-yl]urea;

6-([(3-chlorophenyl)(methyl)amino]-carbonyl)amino)-2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-3H-benzimidazole;

6-([(4-chlorophenyl)(methyl)amino]-carbonyl)amino)-2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-3H-benzimidazole;

6-([(2-cyanoethyl)(phenyl)amino]-carbonyl)amino)-2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-3H-benzimidazole;

6-([methyl[4-(trifluoromethoxy)phenyl]-amino]carbonyl)amino)-2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-3H-benzimidazole;

6-([(3,4-dichlorophenyl)(methyl)-amino]carbonyl)amino)-2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-3H-benzimidazole;

6-([(2,4-difluorophenyl)(methyl)-amino]carbonyl)amino)-2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-3H-benzimidazole;

6-([benzyl(phenyl)amino]carbonyl)amino)-2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-3H-benzimidazole;

6-([methyl(1-naphthyl)amino]carbonyl)amino)-2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-3H-benzimidazole;

6-([phenyl(1-phenylethyl)amino]-carbonyl)amino)-2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-3H-benzimidazole;

6-([cyclohexyl(phenyl)amino]carbonyl)amino)-2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-3H-benzimidazole;

N-(1-phenylcyclopropyl)-N'-[2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-
1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]urea;

N-(4-chlorophenyl)-N-methyl-N'-[2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-1H-
Benzimidazol-5-yl]urea;

6-([[(1-methyl-1-phenylethyl)amino]-carbonyl]amino)-
2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-3H-benzimidazole;

6-([[(1R)-1-phenylpropyl]amino]carbonyl)-amino]-2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-
3H-benzimidazole;

6-([[(1S)-1-phenylpropyl]amino]carbonyl)-amino]-2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-
3H-benzimidazole;

6-([[(3-chlorobenzyl)amino]carbonyl]amino)-2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-3H-
benzimidazole;

6-([[(2,5-dichlorobenzyl)amino]carbonyl]amino)-2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-3H-
benzimidazole;

6-([[(3,5-dichlorobenzyl)amino]carbonyl]amino)-2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-3H-
benzimidazole;

2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-6-([[(3(trifluoromethyl)benzyl]amino]carbonyl)amino]
-3H-benzimidazole;

6-([benzyl(ethyl)amino]carbonyl]amino)-2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-3H-
benzimidazole;

6-([methyl[(1R)-1-phenylethyl]amino]carbonyl)-amino]-
2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-3H-benzimidazole;

6-([methyl[(1S)-1-phenylethyl]amino]carbonyl)-amino]-
2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-3H-benzimidazole;

6-([[(2-phenylpyrrolidin-1-yl)carbonyl]amino]-2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-
3H-benzimidazole;

6-([[(2-phenylcyclopropyl)amino]-carbonyl]amino)-2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-
3H-benzimidazole;

6-([[(4-methoxyphenyl)(methyl)amino]-carbonyl]amino)-
2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-3H-benzimidazole;

6-({[(3,5-dimethylphenyl)(methyl)amino]carbonyl}amino)-
2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-3H-benzimidazole;

6-({[(5-isopropyl-2-methylphenyl)(methyl)amino]carbonyl}amino)-
2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-3H-benzimidazole;

6-({[(6-methoxypyridinium-2-yl)(methyl)amino]-carbonyl}amino)-
2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-3H-benzimidazole;

6-({[ethyl(3-methylbenzyl)amino]carbonyl}amino)-2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-
3H-benzimidazole;

6-({[(3,4-dichlorobenzyl)(methyl)amino]-carbonyl}amino)-
2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-3H-benzimidazole;

6-([[(2-bromothien-3-yl)methyl]amino]carbonyl)amino]-
2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-3H-benzimidazole;

6-([({methyl[5-(trifluoromethyl)-1,3,4-thiadiazol-3-ium-2-
yl]amino}carbonyl)amino]-2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-
3H-benzimidazole;

6-({[(2,4-dichlorophenyl)(methyl)amino]-carbonyl}amino)-
2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-3H-benzimidazole;

N-cyclopropyl-N-phenyl-N'-[2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-1H-
benzimidazol-6-yl]urea;

N-[4-(hydroxymethyl)phenyl]-N-methyl-N'-[2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-1H-
benzimidazol-5-yl]urea;

N-methyl-N'-[2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-1H-benzimidazol-5-yl]-
N-[2-(trifluoromethoxy)-phenyl]urea; and

1-[2-(3-Fluoro-phenyl)-ethyl]-3-(2-thiazol-4-yl-3H-benzoimidazol-5-yl)-urea;
and pharmaceutically acceptable salts and stereoisomers thereof.

12. **(Previously Amended)** A compound according to claim 11,
selected from:

N-(3-fluorobenzyl)-N'-[2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-1H-benzimidazol-5-yl]urea;
N-(3,4-dichlorobenzyl)-N'-[2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-1H-benzimidazol-5-yl]urea;

N-benzyl-N-methyl-N'-[2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]urea;
N-ethyl-N-phenyl-N'-[2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-1H-benzimidazol-5-yl]urea;
6-([methyl(3-methylphenyl)amino]carbonyl)amino)-2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-3H-benzimidazole;
6-([isopropyl(phenyl)amino]carbonyl)amino)-2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-3H-benzimidazole;
6-([sec-butyl(phenyl)amino]carbonyl)amino)-2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-3H-benzimidazole;
6-([allyl(phenyl)amino]carbonyl)amino)-2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-3H-benzimidazole;
6-([(3-chlorophenyl)(methyl)amino]carbonyl)amino)-2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-3H-benzimidazole;
6-([(3,4-dichlorophenyl)(methyl)amino]carbonyl)amino)-2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-3H-benzimidazole;
6-([(1R)-1-phenylpropyl]amino)carbonyl)amino)-2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-3H-benzimidazole;
6-([(3-chlorobenzyl)amino]carbonyl)amino)-2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-3H-benzimidazole;
6-([(3,5-dichlorobenzyl)amino]carbonyl)amino)-2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-3H-benzimidazole;
6-([benzyl(ethyl)amino]carbonyl)amino)-2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-3H-benzimidazole;
6-([(3,5-dimethylphenyl)(methyl)amino]carbonyl)amino)-2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-3H-benzimidazole;
6-([ethyl(3-methylbenzyl)amino]carbonyl)amino)-2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-3H-benzimidazole;
N-cyclopropyl-N-phenyl-N'-[2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]urea; and
1-[2-(3-Fluoro-phenyl)-ethyl]-3-(2-thiazol-4-yl-3H-benzimidazol-5-yl)-urea; and
pharmaceutically acceptable salts and stereoisomers thereof.

25. **(Original)** A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of Claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

26. **(Original)** A composition of Claim 25 which further comprises an active ingredient selected from:

- a) an estrogen or an estrogen derivative, alone or in combination with a progestin or progestin derivative;
- b) a bisphosphonate;
- c) an antiestrogen or a selective estrogen receptor modulator,
- d) an $\alpha v \beta 3$ integrin receptor antagonist,
- e) a cathepsin K inhibitor,
- f) an HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor,
- g) an osteoclast vacuolar ATPase inhibitor,
- h) an antagonist of VEGF binding to osteoclast receptors,
- i) an activator of peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor γ ,
- j) calcitonin,
- k) a calcium receptor antagonist,
- l) parathyroid hormone or analog thereof,
- m) a growth hormone secretagogue,
- n) human growth hormone,
- o) insulin-like growth factor,
- p) a p38 protein kinase inhibitor,
- q) bone morphogenetic protein,
- r) an inhibitor of BMP antagonism,
- s) a prostaglandin derivative,
- t) vitamin D or vitamin D derivative,
- u) vitamin K or vitamin K derivative,
- v) ipriflavone,
- w) fluoride salts,

- x) dietary calcium supplement, and
- y) osteoprotegerin.

27. **(Original)** A composition of Claim 26, wherein said bisphosphonate is alendronate.

28. to 31. **(Cancelled)**

32. **(Original)** A pharmaceutical composition made by combining a compound according to Claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

33. **(Original)** A process for making a pharmaceutical composition comprising combining a compound according to Claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

34. to 35 **(Cancelled)**

36. **(Previously Amended)** A compound according to claim 1, selected from:

- 6-({[(3-methylphenyl)amino]carbonyl}amino)-2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-1H-benzimidazol-1-ium trifluoroacetate;
- 6-([[(1R)-1-phenylethyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]-2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-3H-benzimidazol-1-ium trifluoroacetate;
- 6-([[(1-(1-naphthyl)ethyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]-2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-3H-benzimidazol-1-ium trifluoroacetate;
- 6-({[(3,5-difluorophenyl)amino]carbonyl}amino)-2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-3H-benzimidazol-1-ium trifluoroacetate;
- 6-({[methyl(2-methylphenyl)amino]carbonyl}amino)-2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-3H-benzimidazol-1-ium trifluoroacetate;
- 6-({[methyl(3-methylphenyl)amino]-carbonyl}amino)-2-

(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-3H-benzimidazol-1-ium trifluoroacetate;
6-([methyl(4-methylphenyl)amino]-carbonyl)amino)-2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-3H-benzimidazol-1-ium trifluoroacetate;
6-([sec-butyl(phenyl)amino]carbonyl)amino)-2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-3H-benzimidazol-1-ium trifluoroacetate;
6-([allyl(phenyl)amino]carbonyl)amino)-2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-3H-benzimidazol-1-ium trifluoroacetate;
6-([(2-hydroxyethyl)(phenyl)amino]-carbonyl)amino)-2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-3H-benzimidazol-1-ium trifluoroacetate;
6-([(4-hydroxyphenyl)(methyl)amino]-carbonyl)amino)-2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-3H-benzimidazol-1-ium trifluoroacetate;
6-([(3-chlorophenyl)(methyl)amino]-carbonyl)amino)-2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-3H-benzimidazol-1-ium trifluoroacetate;
6-([(4-chlorophenyl)(methyl)amino]-carbonyl)amino)-2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-3H-benzimidazol-1-ium trifluoroacetate;
6-([(2-cyanoethyl)(phenyl)amino]-carbonyl)amino)-2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-3H-benzimidazol-1-ium trifluoroacetate;
6-([methyl[4-(trifluoromethoxy)phenyl]-amino]carbonyl)amino)-2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-3H-benzimidazol-1-ium trifluoroacetate;
6-([(3,4-dichlorophenyl)(methyl)-amino]carbonyl)amino)-2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-3H-benzimidazol-1-ium trifluoroacetate;
6-([(2,4-difluorophenyl)(methyl)-amino]carbonyl)amino)-2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-3H-benzimidazol-1-ium trifluoroacetate;
6-([benzyl(phenyl)amino]carbonyl)amino)-2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-3H-benzimidazol-1-ium trifluoroacetate;
6-([methyl(1-naphthyl)amino]carbonyl)amino)-2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-3H-benzimidazol-1-ium trifluoroacetate;
6-([phenyl(1-phenylethyl)amino]-carbonyl)amino)-2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-3H-benzimidazol-1-ium trifluoroacetate;
6-([cyclohexyl(phenyl)amino]carbonyl)amino)-2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-3H-

benzimidazol-1-ium trifluoroacetate;
6-({[(1-methyl-1-phenylethyl)amino]carbonyl}amino)-
2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-3H-benzimidazol-1-ium trifluoroacetate;
6-({[(1R)-1-phenylpropyl]amino}carbonyl)-amino]-2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-
3H-benzimidazol-1-ium trifluoroacetate;
6-({[(1S)-1-phenylpropyl]amino}carbonyl)-amino]-2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-
3H-benzimidazol-1-ium trifluoroacetate;
6-({[(3-chlorobenzyl)amino]carbonyl}amino)-2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-3H-
benzimidazol-1-ium trifluoroacetate;
6-({[(2,5-dichlorobenzyl)amino]carbonyl}amino)-2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-3H-
benzimidazol-1-ium trifluoroacetate;
6-({[(3,5-dichlorobenzyl)amino]carbonyl}amino)-2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-3H-
benzimidazol-1-ium trifluoroacetate;
2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-6-({[(3(trifluoromethyl)benzyl)amino]carbonyl}amino)-
3H-benzimidazol-1-ium trifluoroacetate;
6-({[benzyl(ethyl)amino]carbonyl}amino)-2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-3H-
benzimidazol-1-ium trifluoroacetate;
6-({[methyl[(1R)-1-phenylethyl]amino]carbonyl}-amino)-
2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-3H-benzimidazol-1-ium trifluoroacetate;
6-({[methyl[(1S)-1-phenylethyl]amino]carbonyl}-amino)-
2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-3H-benzimidazol-1-ium trifluoroacetate;
6-({[(2-phenylpyrrolidin-1-yl)carbonyl]amino}-2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-
3H-benzimidazol-1-ium trifluoroacetate;
6-({[(2-phenylcyclopropyl)amino]carbonyl}amino)-2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-
3H-benzimidazol-1-ium trifluoroacetate;
6-({[(4-methoxyphenyl)(methyl)amino]carbonyl}amino)-
2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-3H-benzimidazol-1-ium trifluoroacetate;
6-({[(3,5-dimethylphenyl)(methyl)amino]carbonyl}amino)-
2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-3H-benzimidazol-1-ium trifluoroacetate;
6-({[(5-isopropyl-2-methylphenyl)(methyl)amino]carbonyl}amino)-

2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-3H-benzimidazol-1-ium trifluoroacetate;
6-([[(6-methoxypyridinium-2-yl)(methyl)amino]-carbonyl]amino)-
2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-3H-benzimidazol-1-ium bis(trifluoroacetate);
6-([ethyl(3-methylbenzyl)amino]carbonyl]amino)-2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-
3H-benzimidazol-1-ium trifluoroacetate;
6-([[(3,4-dichlorobenzyl)(methyl)amino]-carbonyl]amino)-
2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-3H-benzimidazol-1-ium trifluoroacetate;
6-([[(2-bromothien-3-yl)methyl]amino]carbonyl]amino)-
2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-3H-benzimidazol-1-ium trifluoroacetate;
6-([methyl[5-(trifluoromethyl)-1,3,4-thiadiazol-3-ium-2-
yl]amino]carbonyl]amino)-2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-
3H-benzimidazol-1-ium bis(trifluoroacetate);and
6-([[(2,4-dichlorophenyl)(methyl)amino]-carbonyl]amino)-
2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-3H-benzimidazol-1-ium trifluoroacetate;
and stereoisomers thereof.

37. **(Previously Amended)** A compound according to claim 36,
selected from:

6-([methyl(3-methylphenyl)amino]-carbonyl]amino)-2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-3H-
benzimidazol-1-ium trifluoroacetate;
6-([isopropyl(phenyl)amino]carbonyl]amino)-2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-3H-
benzimidazol-1-ium trifluoroacetate;
6-([sec-butyl(phenyl)amino]carbonyl]amino)-2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-3H-
benzimidazol-1-ium trifluoroacetate;
6-([allyl(phenyl)amino]carbonyl]amino)-2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-3H-
benzimidazol-1-ium trifluoroacetate;
6-([[(3-chlorophenyl)(methyl)amino]-carbonyl]amino)-2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-3H-
benzimidazol-1-ium trifluoroacetate;
6-([[(3,4-dichlorophenyl)(methyl)-amino]carbonyl]amino)-2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-3H-
benzimidazol-1-ium trifluoroacetate;

6-([[(1R)-1-phenylpropyl]amino}carbonyl)-amino)-2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-3H-benzimidazol-1-ium trifluoroacetate;
 6-([[(3-chlorobenzyl)amino]carbonyl}amino)-2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-3H-benzimidazol-1-ium trifluoroacetate;
 6-([[(3,5-dichlorobenzyl)amino]carbonyl}amino)-2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-3H-benzimidazol-1-ium trifluoroacetate;
 6-([[(benzyl(ethyl)amino]carbonyl}amino)-2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-3H-benzimidazol-1-ium trifluoroacetate;
 6-([[(3,5-dimethylphenyl)(methyl)amino]carbonyl}amino)-2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-3H-benzimidazol-1-ium trifluoroacetate; and
 6-([[(ethyl(3-methylbenzyl)amino]carbonyl}amino)-2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-3H-benzimidazol-1-ium trifluoroacetate;
 and stereoisomers thereof.

38. **(Cancelled)**

39. **(Cancelled)**

40. **(Previously Amended)** A compound selected from:

N-(2-phenylcyclopropyl)-*N'*-[2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]urea;
 6-([[(3,4-dichlorophenyl)(methyl)-amino]carbonyl}amino)-2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-3H-benzimidazol-1-ium trifluoroacetate;
 6-([[(2,4-difluorophenyl)(methyl)-amino]carbonyl}amino)-2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-3H-benzimidazol-1-ium trifluoroacetate;
N-(1-phenylcyclopropyl)-*N'*-[2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]urea; and
N-methyl-*N'*-[2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-1H-benzimidazol-5-yl]-*N*-[2-(trifluoromethoxy)-phenyl]urea.

41. **(Previously Amended)** A compound according to claim 40 which is: *N*-(1-phenylcyclopropyl)-*N'*-[2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]urea.

42. **(Previously Amended)** A compound according to claim 40

selected from:

N-(2-phenylcyclopropyl)-*N'*-[2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]urea;
 6-({[(3,4-dichlorophenyl)(methyl)-amino]carbonyl}amino)-2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-3H-benzimidazol-1-ium trifluoroacetate;
 6-({[(2,4-difluorophenyl)(methyl)-amino]carbonyl}amino)-2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-3H-benzimidazol-1-ium trifluoroacetate; and
N-methyl-*N'*-[2-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-1H-benzimidazol-5-yl]-*N*-[2-(trifluoromethoxy)-phenyl]urea.

43. **(Previously added)** A compound according to Claim 1

wherein R^Z is selected from:

- 1) $-(C=O)_aO_b(C_{2-8})alkenyl$,
- 2) $-(C=O)_aO_b(C_{2-8})alkynyl$,
- 3) $-(C=O)_aO_b(C_{3-8})heterocyclyl$,
- 4) $-(C=O)_aO_baryl$,
- 5) $-(C=O)_aN(R^b)_2$,
- 6) $-O_b(C=O)N(R^b)_2$,
- 7) $-NR^b(C=O)_aO_bR^b$,
- 8) $-NR^b(C=O)N(R^b)_2$,
- 9) $-NR^bS(O)_2R^b$,
- 10) $-(C=O)OH$,
- 11) trifluoromethoxy,
- 12) trifluoroethoxy,
- 13) $-O_b(C_{1-10})perfluoroalkyl$,
- 14) $-S(O)_2O_b(C_{1-10})alkyl$,
- 15) $-S(O)_2O_b(C_{2-8})alkenyl$,
- 16) $-S(O)_2O_b(C_{2-8})alkynyl$,
- 17) $-S(O)_2O_b(C_{3-10})cycloalkyl$,

18) $-S(O)_2O_b(C_{3-8})\text{heterocyclyl}$,

19) $-S(O)_2O_b\text{aryl}$,

20) $-S(O)_2N(R^b)_2$

21) $-NR^bS(O)_2N(R^b)_2$

22) $-CN$,

23) $-NO_2$,

24) oxo , and

25) $-OH$,

wherein, said aryl, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, heterocyclyl, and cycloalkyl are each optionally substituted with one or more R^a groups;

R^a is selected from hydrogen, OH, $(C_{1-6})\text{alkoxy}$, halogen, CO_2H , CN, $O(C=O)C_{1-6}\text{ alkyl}$,

NO_2 , trifluoromethoxy, trifluoroethoxy, $-O_b(C_{1-10})\text{perfluoroalkyl}$, and NH_2 ; and

R^b is hydrogen, $-(C=O)_aO_b(C_{1-10})\text{alkyl}$, $-(C=O)_aO_b(C_{2-8})\text{alkenyl}$,

$-(C=O)_aO_b(C_{2-8})\text{alkynyl}$, $-(C=O)_aO_b(C_{3-10})\text{cycloalkyl}$,

$-(C=O)_aO_b(C_{3-8})\text{heterocyclyl}$, $-(C=O)_aO_b\text{aryl}$, $-(C=O)_aO_b(C_{1-10})\text{alkyl}$,

$-S(O)_2N(R^a)_2$, $-S(O)_2O_bR^a$, trifluoromethoxy, trifluoroethoxy, or $-O_b(C_{1-10})\text{perfluoroalkyl}$,

and wherein said alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, and heterocyclyl are optionally substituted with up to three substituents selected from CO_2H , NH_2 , OH, $(C_{1-6})\text{alkoxy}$, halogen, CN, $O(C=O)C_{1-6}\text{alkyl}$, NO_2 , trifluoromethoxy, trifluoroethoxy, $-O_b(C_{1-10})\text{perfluoroalkyl}$ and $N(R^a)_2$.